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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 2674
Examiner: Abbas I. Abdulsalem



In re PATENT APPLICATION of

Applicant: Po-Sheng SHIH
Appl. No.: 09/855,761
Filed: May 16, 2001
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
TRANSMITTING IMAGE SIGNALS
Atty. Dkt.: SUND-201

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Technology Center 2600

STATEMENT OF
SUBSTANCE OF
INTERVIEW

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January 30, 2004

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in satisfaction of the requirement set forth in MPEP 713.04 that the substance of an interview be made of record.

At the request of the applicant, a personal interview regarding the above referenced application was held on January 30, 2004, at approximately 2:00 pm, at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Crystal City, Virginia. Participants in the interview were Examiner Abbas I. Abdulsalem, and the applicant's representative, Phillip G. Avruch.

The claims discussed in the interview are the pending independent claims in the application, i.e., claims 1, 15 and 18. The prior art references discussed were those relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting these claims, namely, Kotani et al. (6,101,539) and Saxena et al. (6,259,449). Other than these references, no exhibits were shown or demonstration conducted. No proposed amendments to the claims were offered by the applicant's representative.

In the interview, the applicant's representative briefly summarized arguments for distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art references. Focusing on claim 1, the applicant's representative emphasized that the claimed invention is directed to an image signal transmitting apparatus for transmitting image signals to an image signal receiving center for processing, wherein the apparatus includes: a function selection panel for entering transmission signals by a user; a controller for receiving the transmission signals entered by the

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users through the function selection panel, and for controlling the sending of the image signals; and a transmitting unit for sending the image signals to the image receiving center in a remote location according to the transmission signals. In other words, in the claimed invention, the transmission of image signals to a central processing center at another location is initiated by a user through a function selection panel at the transmission apparatus.

In the system disclosed in Kotani, by contrast, the transmission of image signals from a plurality of image transmitting terminals is initiated by a request from a central monitoring terminal, which functions an image receiving and processing terminal (see Kotani, column 6, lines 7-14). In other words, the transmitting terminals in Kotani are remotely controlled and there is no suggestion of any user input directly at the transmitting terminals, as required in the claimed invention.

The Saxena reference discloses a computer-based system for integrating telecommunications programs, which has a graphical interface that includes a function selection panel. The applicant's representative argued at the interview that incorporating the control panel into the remote terminal to allow user entry of communication signals, as the Examiner has suggested, would destroy the functionality of Kotani as a system in which image signal transmission is controlled remotely from a central monitor terminal. Moreover, the applicant's representative pointed out that Saxena expressly indicates that the unified graphical user interface is installed on the host computer 102 in the system (Figure 1), rather than on the remote computer 104 from which image signals and other information are received (column 4, lines 17-19).

The Examiner did not offer any rebuttal arguments at the interview, and agreed to withdraw the rejection based on the Saxena reference, which he characterized in the Interview Summary as being "not quite compatible". The Examiner indicated that a new office action will be provided, and hence no further response to the final Office Action is required.

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Entry of this paper into the record and continued examination of the application in a manner consistent with the agreement reached between the Examiner and applicant's representative, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



January 30, 2004
Date

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